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DIMENSION W CHAPTER 27

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File.27
An Unstable Existence

MIRA'S ROOM.

MABUCHI'S AND THAT ANDROID...

THE FOG IS GETTING THICKER. LET'S HURRY, ELI-CHAN!

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THIS IS IT.

AN ELEC-TRONIC LOCK LIKE THIS...

WILL ONLY TAKE ME TWO SECONDS.

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CAN YOU OPEN IT?

OF COURSE!

PIECE OF CAKE!

OPEN

SEE?

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DAMN IT...

ELI-CHAN!

WAHAHA-HAHA!

I CAUGHT A KID...

A LITTLE GIRL.

ELI-CHAN!!

BUT IF I'M NOT CAREFUL I COULD END UP KILLING YOU,

RIGHT?

IT MIGHT BE REALLY FUN TO PLAY WITH YOU.

A SMALL, TINY, LITTLE GIRL.

UGH...

HAHA HA!

ARGH!

YOU ARE SO ANNOYING!!

FLUFF

FLUFF

SAYING KID, KID...

...UGH...
...GROSS...

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SCREECH

SCREECH

I'LL KILL YOU!

...CAN'T DIE, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO!

WE...

!

I WON'T DIE, YOU KNOW.

AHAHA HAHA!

WHY DON'T YOU SHOW US...

WHAT IS 'DEATH'?

PLEASE TELL ME,

SHOW US WHAT 'THE END' LOOKS LIKE!

THAT VOICE IS... MABUCHI!?

I'LL SHOW YOU...

...WHAT IT MEANS TO BE 'FINISHED'!

SINCE YOU WANT TO KNOW, I'LL LET YOU HAVE A GOOD TASTE OF IT.

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I'M GUESSING THIS WAS PROBABLY...

THEIR WEAKNESS.

CASSETTE GAS POWER

I'VE FIGURED IT OUT...

...THE PLAN SHIJYUUROU THOUGHT UP AS WELL TO FIGHT AGAINST THE "FOG".

!!?

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IS DISPER-SING...!?

THE FOG...

!?

SPRAY

SPRAY

ヒュオオオオオオオ

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DISAP-PEAR-ING...

DIS...

THAT'S HOW I NOTICED.

I SAW THAT THESE MONSTERS COULD GO THROUGH ANY OBSTACLE EXCEPT FOR BOTTLES OF MINERAL WATER, WHICH THEY BOUNCED OFF OF.

THEY'RE MADE OF WATER THEMSELVES.

...I DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD ACTUALLY BE AFRAID OF WATER.

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IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, THAT ROOM PROBABLY HAS SOMETHING LIKE A LIGHTER WITHIN ARM'S REACH.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE CASE.

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I SEE.

THAT'S WHY, KNOWING THIS, SASAKI-SAN USED WATER FROM OTHER SOURCES THROUGHOUT THE HOTEL AND SET ALL THE SPRINKLERS IN THE HOTEL TO GO OFF WHEN A SMOKE ALARM WAS ACTIVATED.

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HOW SO?

IF THIS REALLY IS THE CASE, THEN ISN'T IT ALSO KIND OF STRANGE?

...BUT MABUCHI,

YEAH.

CLICK

...BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER...

YES...

.. IN THE BATHROOM?

I FOUND HER! IT'S MIRA-CHAN!

ELI-CHAN, OVER HERE OVER HERE.

LOOK.

!?

IS SHE FROZEN?

MAYBE IT WAS A FUSE SHORTAGE?

SHE DOESN'T REACT WHEN I POKE HER, NOR DOES SHE ANSWER WHEN I TALK TO HER.

...BUT HER HEAD, THE AI PART IS LOCKED AND INACCESSABLE...

TO TO TO

THE TROUBLE-SHOOTING PROGRAM FOR OPERATIONAL ERRORS D.DN'T F.ND ANYTHING STRANGE E.THER...

...BUT HER COIL IS STILL WORK.NG NORMALLY.

RESTART?

...FOR SOMETH.NG L.KE THIS, WE PROBABLY HAVE TO DO A RESTART...

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...RE-JECTED.

!

BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

IT WILL LIKELY DAMAGE THE MEMORY, SO I DON'T REALLY WANT TO DO THIS EITHER...

TURNING THE COIL OFF BY FORCE AND CUTT.NG OFF THE ELECTRICITY TO THE WHOLE SYSTEM.

EH?

LUCKILY, THE COIL IS EXPOSED RIGHT NOW...

AS LONG AS YOU PRESS DOWN ON THE CENTER OF THE COIL FOR AT LEAST FIVE SECONDS OR DESTROY IT D.RECTLY, IT'LL TURN OFF.

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"

IT'S ALSO SA.D THAT A CONNECTION THAT'S CURRENTLY OPERATING CANNOT BE DESTROYED.

PROVIDED THE COIL HASN'T GONE BERSERK.

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KYAA AAAH!

...HUH?

PLUS, WHY ARE YOU NAKED?

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DISAPPEARED FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, SO WE CAME TO FIND YOU!

ELI-CHAN AND MISUZU-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DON'T...

DON'T SCARE OTHERS LIKE THAT!

I... I WAS ALMOST FORCED TO RESTART BEFORE I COULD MAKE IT BACK...

AREN'T YOU A ROBOT THOUGH?

UNCOM-FORT-ABLE?

AS I WAS READING I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE, SO I TOOK A SHOWER...

DID THE DYE WASH OFF ALREADY...?

OH NO...

UM...

ELI-CHAN, YOUR HAIR IS TURN.NG BLACK...

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SPEAKING OF WHICH, I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

.....

SOME... SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YOU HAIR IS DYED, ELI-CHAN?

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FIRST, I HAVE TO FIND KYOMA-SAN...

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW IS TO RECOVER THE NUMBERS!

COMPARED TO THAT

AH,

WAIT!

I HAVE TO TELL HIM ABOUT 'THAT TRUTH' AND ITS LOCATION, QUICKLY!

HOLO

OVER THERE!

BOTH THAT WORLD AND THE REAL YASOGAMI WILL BECOME A TRAGEDY.

IF I DON'T HURRY AND TRY TO STOP IT...

WHAT IS "THAT TRUTH?" AND WHERE IS THE LOCATION?

IF YOU CAN, YOU HAVE TO PUT ON SOME UNDERWEAR TOO, OK?!

MIRA-CHAN, YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST PUT ON SOME CLOTHES!

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SASAKI SHIJYUUROU IS PROBABLY A VICTIM FROM THAT ACCIDENT 21 YEARS AGO

AND HE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THOSE THINGS THAT WERE BORN BECAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT ARE AFRAID OF "WATER"

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...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AL?

BEFORE HE DIED, THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE 'FOG' OR 'GHOSTS'.

...AND ANOTHER THING IS,

IF HE WAS WORRIED HE'D BE ATTACKED, WHY WOULD HE STILL LIVE HERE?

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SINCE HE HAD PREPARED SUCH DEFENSIVE MEASURES BEFOREHAND, IT MEANS HE HAD PREDICTED A SITUATION IN WHICH HE WOULD BE ATTACKED.

HE PROBABLY DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD REALLY BE KILLED, RIGHT?

.....

THE SPRINKLERS WERE ONLY A BACK-UP PLAN.

FROM THIS WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT BEFORE SASAKI SHIJYUUROU DIED, HE HAD THE POWER TO CONTROL THE 'FOG' AND THE 'GHOSTS'

PROBABLY

...WAS IT AN AMBUSH?

AND THE FOOTAGE RECORDED IN THE HOUSE ROBOT DIDN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF SURPRISE ON SASAKI SHIJYUUROU'S FACE.

...IT'S AS YOU SAID, THAT MAID CALLED KATO SAID SHE NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE GHOSTS.

THERE ARE NO CRACKS THAT THE FOG CAN COME IN THROUGH, AND EVEN IF THEY DID ENTER THE ROOM, SOMEONE AS CAUTIOUS AS SASAKI-SAN WOULD HAVE NOTICED.

FROM THE BEGINNING, I EXPLAINED TO YOU HOW THE STUDY, WHICH IS THE CRIME SCENE, WAS A CLOSED ROOM WITH AIRTIGHT SECURITY.

AND THE TRUTH IS, THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN FRONT OF THE ROOM'S DOOR, WHICH WAS AJAR, DIDN'T PICK UP ANYTHING EITHER.

THE NEXT QUESTION IS 'WHO'?

WHERE DID THE 'WATER' COME FROM?

BUT WHY IS THE CAUSE OF DEATH DROWNING?

I'M AFRAID SHIJYUJROU LIKELY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HIMSELF GETTING SURROUNDED BY THOSE THINGS.

...CRICKET ALSO FOUND OUT THAT THE 'GHOSTS' DIDN'T HAVE ANY MASS...

THE 'FOG' AND 'GHOSTS' WILL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID 'PURE WATER'...

EXACTLY.

.. ONLY, THAT WOULD MEAN...

I DON'T DISAGREE WITH THIS POINT.

ACCORDING TO THE CRIME SCENE, THE POLICE CONCLUDED THAT THE KILLER USED THE WATER IN THE WATER COOLER.

...NO.

...SOMEONE FORCED SASAKI SHIJYUUROU TO DRINK IT.

WITH YASOGAMI'S 'LAKE WATER', WHERE THE 'FOG' CAME FROM.

...SWITCHED THE 'WATER' IN THE WATER COOLER

IN REALITY, SOMEONE...

THAT WATER WAS PROBABLY ENOUGH TO PARTIALLY FORM AN ACTUAL PERSON WHO SUFFOCATED SASAKI SHIJYUUROU.

UWAAH...

AND IN THE END, DROWNED HIM.

WHEN THE HOUSE ROBOT WENT TO POUR SOME WATER, THE WATER STARTED SPRAYING OUT BY ITSELF.

YOUR WATER.

THAT IS THE LAST QUESTION THAT NEEDS TO BE ANSWERED.

BUT WHO SWITCHED THE WATER?

OR IT WAS ABSORBED BY SASAKI-SAN'S BODY

ALSO, THE WATER WAS MOSTLY EVAPORATED

BECAUSE THE 'WATER' THAT FORMS THE 'FOG' DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL IN ITS COMPOSITION, THE POLICE DIDN'T NOTICE THIS POINT.

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YOU'RE LATE!

YOU PILE OF SCRAP METAL!

OUCH!

!

KYOMA-SAN!

THE LOCATION OF THE NUMBERS'!

THE COIL THAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS...

FOUND IT?

SO... SORRY...

BUT THANKS TO THAT I FINALLY FOUND IT.

...ARE YOU SURE IT'S HERE, BURU?

TRUST ME, LEIDE.

IT'S HERE.

...SEEMS LIKE THIS IS IT.

...IN OTHER WORDS, AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT HUGE HOLE.

"*THAT* IS SLEEPING IN THE DEEPEST PART."

IT'S WRITTEN VERY CLEARLY IN THE KURODA NOTEBOOK.

"IN THIS PLACE, WHEN THE FOG IS FORMED, YOU CAN SEE HUGE DROPLETS OF WATER FORMING IN THE AIR."

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IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS WHIRLPOOL IS WHERE THE 'NUMBERS' EXISTS.

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